

## IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 27 (cancelled)

28. (original) An apparatus for cutting an electrical wiring line, comprising:  
a laser generator for generating a laser beam,  
an optical beam branching element for branching the laser beam  
generated by the laser generator into a plurality of branch beams, and  
a beam condenser for condensing the branch beams branched by the  
optical beam branching element.

29. (original) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the optical beam  
branching element also serves as the beam condenser.

30. (currently amended) An apparatus according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 28 and  
29, wherein the optical branching element is one of an optical diffraction element and a phase  
grating.

31. (currently amended) An apparatus according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 28 and  
30, further comprising a beam splitter element for splitting the laser beam generated by the  
laser generator into a plurality of beams, wherein the optical beam branching element is  
arranged at least for one split beam.

32. (original) An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the beam splitter element  
is a polarizing beam splitter.

33. (original) An apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising a retardation element disposed in front of the polarizing beam splitter, for adjusting a polarization plane component ratio of the beam.

34. (currently amended) An apparatus according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 28 through 33, further comprising a beam expander for adjusting the beam diameter of the beam prior to beam condensation.

35. (currently amended) An apparatus according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 28 through 34, further comprising a suction mechanism for sucking debris resulting from the cutting of the electrical wiring line.

36. (original) An apparatus for manufacturing an electronic device including a substrate having a plurality of electric wiring lines to be connected with an IC mounted on the substrate comprising:

- a laser generator for generating a laser beam,
- an optical beam branching element for branching the laser beam generated by the laser generator into a plurality of branch beams, and
- a beam condenser for condensing the branch beams branched by the optical beam branching element,

wherein the plurality of electrical wiring lines which are shorted to each other are cut by the branch beams for isolation from each other and then connected with the IC.

37. (original) An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the optical beam branching element also serves as the beam condenser.

38. (currently amended) An apparatus according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 36 and 37, further comprising an IC mounter which mounts the IC on the substrate.

39. (original) An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein an optical system including the laser generator, the optical beam branching element and the beam condenser is incorporated in the IC mounter.

40. (currently amended) An apparatus according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 36 through 39, wherein the laser generator is a laser diode oscillator.

41. (new) An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the optical branching element is one of an optical diffraction element and a phase grating.

42. (new) An apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising a beam splitter element for splitting the laser beam generated by the laser generator into a plurality of beams, wherein the optical beam branching element is arranged at least for one split beam.

43. (new) An apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising a beam expander for adjusting the beam diameter of the beam prior to beam condensation.

44. (new) An apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising a beam expander for adjusting the beam diameter of the beam prior to beam condensation.

45. (new) An apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising a beam expander for adjusting the beam diameter of the beam prior to beam condensation.

46. (new) An apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising a beam expander for adjusting the beam diameter of the beam prior to beam condensation.

47. (new) An apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising a beam expander for adjusting the beam diameter of the beam prior to beam condensation.